

WORLD CIVILITY DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MRVAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Chuck Hughes, executive director of the Gary Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Gordon Bradshaw, chairman of the public policy committee, for establishing the World Civility Day which was celebrated earlier this month on July 8.

In 2015, Mr. Hughes and Dr. Bradshaw created the Community Civility Counts initiative with the Gary Chamber of Commerce and established the World Civility Day in order to encourage all individuals to be more mindful of our actions and to bring more understanding, more tolerance, and more listening and empathy into our society.

I became a public servant in order to bring people together and solve problems, and that only happens when we treat each other with respect and civility.

I commend Mr. Hughes, Dr. Bradshaw, and all of the individuals and organizations engaged in this initiative for their leadership to recognize the timely and worthy goals of World Civility Day.

BIDEN'S CRIME CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the alarming spike in crime happening across major cities in our Nation.

Right now American families are being forced to face an explosion of violent crime in their streets and in their neighborhoods. After the riots of the past year which saw the destruction of both public and private property, and as we undergo one of the worst crime waves in modern history, citizens are deservedly concerned about their safety and well-being.

One of the essential functions of our government is to provide security to all citizens. Yet the Biden administration, after months of refusing to acknowledge the crime wave, finally addressed it by claiming that crime is down. That misleading claim couldn't be further from the truth. Crime is actually skyrocketing, and it is plaguing cities across the Nation.

Homicides are up 533 percent—yes, 533 percent—in Portland, 50 percent in Minneapolis, 35 percent in Philadelphia, and 24 percent in Los Angeles compared to the same time in 2020.

On top of that, ambush-style attacks on police officers this year have increased 91 percent compared to this time last year. When Democrats defund the police, lawlessness is guaranteed to follow, complete with more crimes of all kinds, including murder. Left unchecked, such lawlessness will eventually destroy our Republic.

So how did a nation of law and order become a nation of lawlessness and chaos in such a short period of time?

Make no mistake, the socialist agenda of President Biden and far-left Democrats in Congress is to blame. Radical policies like defunding the police, abolishing prisons, and eliminating cash bail have contributed to the surging crime wave.

We cannot tolerate vandalism or violence, and we surely cannot normalize a culture of violence by failing to fully prosecute those who are working to dismantle our cities. Tennesseans cannot bear much more of Biden's crime crisis. The solution to countering the crime wave is clear: we must fund and support our law enforcement agencies across the country.

WORLD CIVILITY DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for his reminding us of the World Civility Day and its importance. I rise today in the spirit of civility, facts, and bringing people together.

First of all, we are all saddened by the surge of crime across America, and we are working with our communities, those who intervene, and those who are responding to the issues of depredation and danger that permeates many of our communities and many of our young people.

I believe it is important to ensure that the excessive amount of guns that are trafficked illegally are taken off the street. Soon in my community we will hold a gun buyback with the Houston Police Department because they are working with the community.

So I think it is important to state the fact that the Obama administration, President Joe Biden, and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS are strong advocates and have invested much to ensure that crime goes down. We know that it is a mixture of the toxicity of the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty, and, of course, those who are inclined to do the crime.

With that in mind, it is very important to factually make the point that there is nothing in the Biden administration's agenda or its funding packages or those of Democrats that deal with the defunding of police. We are reimagining and working with our communities collectively. As we say: Police community relations will improve and continue to improve, one, the finding of those who perpetrate the crime for them to be brought to justice fairly because crime does not look to the color of one's skin. It is without discrimination and hits all of America.

So I am very proud to have been an original cosponsor and lead on the Victims of Crime Act that was signed by the President last week that ensured that our communities will now have a

victims fund that our States will be able to deal with.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to go home and interact with the victims of crime. Show them that you care and work with your communities so that they are compensated in the full.

Let me also indicate that it is appropriate for us to move on H.R. 40. An enormity of Members of Congress have sponsored the commission to study slavery and develop reparation proposals. In civility, this would give us an opportunity to have a first federal conversation on race for a full discussion and analysis of the economy, political, psychological, scientific, and sociological effects of slavery in the United States.

The legislation makes no judgment on how to respond to the slavery of African Americans that began its sinful roots 401 years ago, but it points us to developing a response and a repair to deal with what is a continuing stigma of institutional racism. Mr. Speaker, you cannot ignore the disparities that exist in the community, and we cannot ignore the opportunity to have that discussion.

I am very grateful for the wide variety of individuals from the East, the West, the North, and the South of varying political perspectives who have supported this, the religious organizations that have supported this, the social justice organizations, or just plain people who raise their voices—57 percent in a recent poll.

So let us look forward to repairing, being a repair, the repairers. We know that our beloved pastor and leader who has provided us with the words that he is the repairer of the breach, and we thank him for that. And we thank all those who are willing to have a civil discussion to ensure that we can end the surge of crime and the scourge of crime and as well be able to discuss race in a manner of civility in a way that we can come together and repair it.

I know that it is the intent of those who cosponsored the bill and all of the vast supporters across America. It is certainly my intent as the lead cosponsor after the Honorable John Conyers, and I know it is the intent of the Congressional Black Caucus and all those who raise their voices for a civil discussion on the question of race. I think America is that good and better than that to be able to say that we can have that civil discussion. As has been said in our meetings of the Congressional Black Caucus: our power and our message.

DEVASTATING DROUGHT AFFECTING UTAH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to discuss